(d) whether Government have identified some railway stations in Punjab State for their development as model stations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) Model station scheme which was introduced to develop some of the stations as Models to other stations during 1986 has since been discontinued in 1992. Under this scheme, Jalandhar City was developed as model station in Punjab. However, provision of faciltities for passengers at railway station is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever warranted by traffic needs depending on the availability of funds. Accordingly various works have been taken up at Amritsar, Jalandhar City, Ludhiana, Beas, Firozpur Cantt., Bathinda and Jandiala.

Reduction in Waiting time for purchase of reservation trickets

1986. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan to reduce the waiting time in large cities for the purchase of reservation tickets;

(b) whether it is a fact that it takes 2 to 3 hours to purchase tickets at railway stations in large cities;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have 24-hour reservation facilities in major cities; and

(d) if not, how does Government propose to reduce the time taken for buying tickets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) During the peak seasons such as summer rush, pooja rush and christmas vacations waiting time in the large cities for purchasing tickets is considerably more. During other periods of the year, the waiting time varies from 20 to 40 minutes at the reservation counters.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Various steps taken by the railwasy for reducing the waiting time for purchasing tickets inter-alia include expansion of the computerised locations, opening of satellite reservation offices and provision of additional reservation/ booking counters.

Amenities at Chandigarh for Railways Passengers

1987. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Chandigarh Railway Passengers Welfare Association have written to the Prime Minister and Railway Minister seeking more facilities and amenities at Chandigarh for railway passengers;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the demands are as under:—

(i) Conversion of Chandigarh Railway station into model, Modern and terminal Railway station.

(ii) Extension of August Kranti Express, Dakshin Express, Kerala Express, Karnataka Express and Tinsukia Express upto Chandigarh.

(iii) Introduction of direct train service for Bombay Central, Dadar, Manmad, Nanded, Goa, Pune and Patna Sahib from Chandigarh by attaching some coaches in different trains.